

REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13, and 16 will have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-14 and 16 remain pending in the present application. By the present Amendment and Remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections and objections have been overcome, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Traversal of Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over QIAO in view of SUGAHARA. Assuming arguendo that the combination is proper, Applicant submits that the cited references, singularly or in combination, do not teach all the features of the rejected claims.

Independent Claims 1, 8, and 16

Applicant's independent Claims 1, and similarly Claims 8 and 16, as amended recite, *inter alia*, ... examining means for examining application software that has a specific process name is running on each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses through the network. For example, "the process name" in the instant application is for managing programs running on a computer by an operating system, and a list of the process name is displayed on Task Manager of Microsoft Windows, for instance. There are various programs running on an operating system of a computer, but not every program has a function of printing instruction. For example, "explorer.exe" does not have a function of printing instruction while "winword.exe" does. Therefore, the present invention is not just to examine whether or not a client computer on a network is operating, or to manage a progress status of a print job generated already. In the present invention, the possibility on whether or not a client computer issues a printing instruction is examined.

On the other hand, Applicant submits that QIAO does not teach the aforementioned features. QIAO merely discloses whether or not a plurality of computers on a network is operating (transmitting packet data).

Likewise, SUGUHARA does not disclose the above-noted features. SUGAHARA discloses a status monitor installed to a client computer to monitor a print job status and a job observation stationary module installed to a server computer to monitor a print job. However, SUGAHARA only discloses monitoring the process status of a print job generated by a printer driver, but does not disclose monitoring the operational status of application software to provide the printer driver with a print instruction before the printer driver generates the print job.

Because QIAO and SUGAHARA fail to disclose the above-noted features of the present invention, Applicant submits that QIAO and SUGAHARA fail to disclose each and every feature of the present invention as recited in Independent Claims 1, 8, and 16. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of Independent Claims 1, 8, and 16 be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-14

Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-14 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent Claims 1 and 8 and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Application is Allowable

Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim on the present invention meets the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate allowance of such claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's invention as recited in Claims 1-14 and 16. The applied reference of record has been discussed and distinguished, while the significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 502456.

Respectfully submitted,

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